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Mexico

Agricultural Situation

Mexico's Monthly Crop Update, November 2002 2002

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Report Highlights:

Early official production estimate for the 2003 spring/summer grain, cotton and soybeans harvests are lower than year ago. Post continues to maintain its previous forecast for MY 2002/03.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1], [MX]

The tables below represent the most recent official data published by Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries, and Foodstuffs (SAGARPA). USDA does not necessarily concur with SAGARPA's data; however, it is used in these tables so that readers may have a consistent data source as a basis for their analysis. FAS/Mexico's numbers may ultimately vary significantly from those presented below because of input from non-SAGARPA sources.

FORECAST FOR FALL/WINTER 2002/03 HARVEST

Crop	Planting Intention Fall/ Winter 2002/03 (1000 has)	Already Planted Fall/ Winter 2002/03 (1000 has)	Monthly Change Area Fall/ Winter 2002/03 (1000 has)	Projected Production Fall/ Winter 2002/03 (1000 MT)	Production Harvested Fall/Winter 2002/03 (100MT)
CORN	7,263	7,323	63	15,113	1,447
SORGHUM	1,142	1,114	68	3,781	625
WHEAT	145	99	0	170	8
COTTON*	73	40	0	77	34
SOYBEANS	109	59	0	93	11
TOTAL	8,732	8,635	131	19,234	2,125

* Area on all tables is based on cotton lint (not cottonseed); SAGARPA reports area for the primary crop, i.e., cotton. The production estimate, however, is for cottonseed (there is a separate estimate for fiber which is reported in our annual and voluntary cotton reports).

SOURCE: SAGARPA as of October 31, 12002

FAS/MEXICO'S COMMENTS:

According to SAGARPA the planting season finished in October with only minor adjustments from the previous month (i.e. September). In corn, SAGARPA again reduced slightly its production estimate (approximately 1.4 percent). Similarly, the wheat production estimate was reduced to 170,000 MT, in line with the area already planted, which is lower than initially estimated. Meanwhile in sorghum, the production estimate was revised upward by SAGARPA, due to good weather conditions in the Bajio region, one of the country's most important sorghum areas. Post is maintaining its current PS&D forecasts (see MX 2157, MX 2055 and MX 2077).

SAGARPA recently released its "Planting Intentions Program and Production Estimate" for the spring/summer 2003 harvest. The comparison between these estimates and the area effectively planted and production obtained in the same harvest a year earlier is as follows:

**PRELIMINARY FORECAST FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2003 HARVEST AND
FINAL RESULTS FOR THE SPRING/SUMMER 2002 HARVEST**

Crop	Area Planted Spring/ Summer 2002 (1000 HA)	Production Harvested Spring/ Summer 2002 (1000 MT)	Planting Intentions Spring/ Summer 2003 (1000 HA)	Projected Production Spring/ Summer 2003 (1000 MT)
CORN	977	4,029	799	2,717
SORGHUM	937	1,555	917	2,638
WHEAT	577	3,086	455	2,374
COTTON*	0	0	34	37
SOYBEANS	1	1	3	4
TOTAL	2,492	8,671	2,208	7,770

* Area on all tables based on cotton lint (not cottonseed); SAGARPA reports area for the primary crop, i.e., cotton. The production estimate, however, is for cotton seed (there is a separate estimate for fiber which is reported in our annual and voluntary cotton reports).

SOURCE: SAGARPA as of October 31, 2002

COMMENT:

SAGARPA indicated that these planting intentions and production forecasts are very preliminary. The final figures of planting intentions on irrigated areas, for example, will be defined when the National Water Commission (CNA) authorizes the water volume available for this cycle. Traditionally, CNA authorizes it during November and December. SAGARPA stated, however, that corn and wheat forecast figures for Sinaloa and Sonora will be lower than a year ago as a result of the low water levels. CNA indicates that water stored in the Northwest region is approximately 30 percent less than at this time last year. Usually, Sinaloa contributes around half of the corn spring/summer production, while Sonora accounts for 40 percent of total wheat production.